GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM AND CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2745
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2003
OPENING OF UNDERGROUND PASSAGE AT RED FORT
M. JAGANNATH;SURESH KODIKUNNIL;VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to open the underground passage in the historic Red Fort for the tourists;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith length of this passage;

(c) since when it had been lying closed and the reasons therefor;

(d) whether necessary clearance has been given by the security agencies for the use of this passage by the general public;

(e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to provide risk free passage to the people through this tunnel;

(f) whether the Government have identified other similar projects in various parts of the country to boost tourism; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN)

(a)&(b) There is a water gate under the Khas Mahal and Musamman Burj providing connectivity of the Red Fort with a branch of the river Yamuna which used to run almost parallel to the eastern fortification wall. It is a stepped passage having 43 steps and is 47 meters in length which is now being conserved. Connectivity through this underground passage is under development.

(c) It was lying closed since Red Fort was brought under central protection in 1913.

(d)to(g) There is no need for it, being a protected monument. Adequate security arrangements are being made. The area has not yet been opened to the public. A number of cultural hubs which synthesise elements of culture, tourism and clean civic life are under development in various parts of the country.